



NEWS RELEASE

SBA Buffalo District Office, 540 Niagara Center, 130 S. Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14202

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SBA SEEKS NOMINATIONS FOR 2010 'SMALL BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR'

BUFFALO, NY – Do you or someone you know have what it takes to become America's "Small Business Person of the Year" for 2010? If so, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) wants to hear from you.

Every year since 1963, the President of the United States has proclaimed National Small Business Week to recognize the contributions of small businesses to the economic well-being of America. As part of National Small Business Week, the U.S. Small Business Administration recognizes this special impact made by outstanding entrepreneurs and small business owners.

During National Small Business Week, SBA showcases and recognizes some of the most successful and inspiring entrepreneurs. We would ask for your assistance in finding and nominating candidates for these awards. Please take the time over the coming weeks to identify outstanding small companies in your district and to champion them through this nomination process. Through your support of the finest candidates in your region, you will be helping the most important national recognition for American small businesses.

Business owners from every state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and Guam, who have been named as their state's "Small Business Person of the Year," travel to Washington for three days of small business-related activities and meetings that typically include high-level government officials. This same pool of winners also compete for the national honor of "Small Business Person of the Year."

Each state's Small Business Person of the year must meet criteria which include staying power, growth in employment, increase in sales/unit volume, innovation, response to adversity, and evidence of contributions to his/her community.

Champion awards are also presented to persons who have used their professional skills or personal talents to further public understanding and awareness of small business. Candidates must have taken an active role in creating opportunities to promote the interests of small business. Champion categories include Women in Business, Minority, Veteran, Family Business, Home-Based Business, and Financial Services. A Champion may or may not be an entrepreneur.

Also, special awards are also presented to the Small Business Exporter and Young Entrepreneur of the Year. New in 2010 is the Community/Rural Lender of the Year Award. The Community/Rural Lender award will go to a Community/Rural lender (under \$1B) that has exhibited an ongoing commitment to supporting the growth and expansion of small businesses that are not able to obtain financing on reasonable terms elsewhere. The candidates should have a presence in their community and utilize several of the SBA loan products.

Nominations in the Small Business Person of the Year, Champions of the Year and special Small Business Week award categories can be made by any individual or organizations such as professional and trade associations, business organizations, chambers of commerce, banks, or a small business' employees.

All nominations must be received by the Buffalo District office no later than

November 6, 2009. To obtain information or receive a copy of the Nomination Guidelines, please contact Kelly LoTempio at kelly.lotempio@sba.gov or by phone at (716) 551-4301 ext. 309.